

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 21160 ACTION DEPT SEP 6TH

QUOTE

UNCLAS PARIS 21160

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TGEN

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY INSIGHTS INTO FRENCH RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT POLICY

REF: A. PARIS A-84 B. PARIS A-168

1. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION: THE GOF'S PROPOSED
1175 BUDGET FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACCORDS WITH
OUR EXPECTATIONS OF THE NEW GISCARDIEN GOVERNMENT. IT
IS PRAGMATIC AND POSITIVE. PRIORITIES ARE ON AREAS WITH
DOMESTIC SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RELEVANCE: 1) QUALITY OF
LIFE (HEALTH' WORKING CONDITIONS, ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING,
TRANSPORTATION, ETC.); 2) EXPLOITATION OF ENERGY AND
OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES, AND 3) INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS.
DELIBERATELY DEFLATED IS THE GAULLIST STRATEGY OF DE-
VELOPING THE PRESTIGE BIG TECHNOLOGIES. A GREATER
ROLE IN THIS DOMAIN IS FORESEEN FOR PRIVATE INDUSTRY.
HOWEVER, THIS TREND WAS UNDERWAY UNDER THE POMPIDOU
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REGIME, AND, ON CLOSER LOOK THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S PRO-

GRAM WILL NOT MARK ANY RADICAL DEPARTURE. IN FACT, THE CIVILIAN RESEARCH BUDGET IN 1975 WILL STAY AT VIRTUALLY THE SAME LEVEL AS 1974 IN TERMS OF REAL, INFLATION-CORRECTED FUNDING. THE FRENCH SPACE PROGRAM WILL LIMP ALONG WITH A MODERATE DECREASE IN REAL TERMS. SUPPORT FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL R & D IS SLATED FOR SIGNIFICANT INCREASES. END SUMMARY

2. IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH PARIS DAILY "LE FIGARO" ON 30 AUGUST, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH MICHEL D'ORNANO ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL CIVIL R & D BUDGET WOULD BE RAISED TO 8 BILLION FRANCS (1.6 BILLION DOLLARS), UP 1 BILLION OR 14 PERCENT FROM 1974. (AFTER CORRECTION FOR INFLATION, THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF AT THE MOST A FEW PERCENT.)

3. D'ORNANO STATED THAT THE GREATER PART OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MAJOR NUCLEAR, COMPUTER, AND SPACE PROGRAMS OF THE 1960'S HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED. WITHIN NEXT FEW YEARS IT WOULD BE LARGELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF INDUSTRY TO CARRY ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THESE FIELDS. NEW PRIORITIES ARE CALLED FOR NOW, D'ORNANO CONTENDED: IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE (HEALTH, NUTRITION, HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, WORKING CONDITIONS, NOISE AND OTHER NUISANCES, AND ENVIRONMENT), THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY, INCREASING THE SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIALS AND GREATER UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND, FINALLY, THE IMPROVEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.

4. HE CONTINUED THAT FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH MUST CONTINUE TO GROW AND THIS CAN ONLY OCCUR IF THE HUMAN INVESTMENT IS INCREASED AND IF OLDER SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE ALREADY MADE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MOVED INTO NEW FIELDS TO MAKE ROOM FOR YOUNGER SCIENTISTS. FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH MUST, HOWEVER, ADAPT ITSELF TO THE NEW PRIORITIES OF THESE NEW THEMES.

5. FROM AN ORGANIZATIONAL PERSPECTIVE, D'ORNANO NOTED UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THESE NEW DIRECTIONS CALLED FOR A REORIENTATION OF AGENCIES SUCH AS THE CEA (ATOMIC ENERGY) AND THE CNES (SPACE) AND FOR A GREATER ROLE FOR BGRM (MINING AND PETROLEUM RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION), INRA (AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH) AND INSERM (MEDICAL RESEARCH). AT THIS POINT IN TIME, D'ORNANO IS NOT SURE HOW THE LATTER THREE AGENCIES WILL BE EVENTUALLY ORGANIZED TO ADAPT TO THE NEW PRIORITIES. HE IS CHARGING THE DGRST (GOF'S

CENTRAL RESEARCH PLANNING ORGANIZATION) TO STUDY THE WAYS AND MEANS FOR REORIENTING THE GOVERNMENT R & D ESTABLISHMENT TOWARD MEETING ITS NEW OBJECTIVES.

6. COMMENT: WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON D'ORNANO'S REMARKS, DGRST BUDGET EXPERT JEAN CASTEX TOLD SCIATT THAT THE L3 PERCENT INCREASE WILL PROBABLY JUST BALANCE THE INFLATION RATE AND, THEREFORE, THE 1975 BUDGET REPRESENTS NO ADDITIONAL REAL MONEY OVER L974. THE SPACE BUDGET, WHILE SHOWING A NUMERICAL RISE, WILL ACTUALLY DIMINISH WHEN CORRECTED FOR INFLATION. ENERGY-RELATED PROGRAMS WILL IN GENERAL RECEIVE REAL INCREASES. TO ACHIEVE SUCH GAINS, CASTEX CONTINUED, AND STILL GIVE NEW EMPHASIS TO PROGRAMS RELATED TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE. OPERATIONS EXPENSES WILL BE REDUCED AND THERE WILL BE VERY LITTLE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW FACILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS. PROVIDING POSITIONS FOR NEWLY GRADUATING SCIENTISTS WILL BE A SERIOUS PROBLEM BECAUSE IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO INDUCE OLDER SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCH ENGINEERS TO SEEK OPPORTUNITIES ELSEWHERE. D'ORNANO'S INTERVIEW, HE ADDED, SUMMARISES PROPOSALS WHICH WILL BE MADE TO THE INTERMINISTERIAL R & D BUDGET COMMITTEE (SEE SECTION 3B OF REF A) WHEN IT MEETS IN OCTOBER. THUS, HE CONCLUDED, THERE MAY STILL BE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE 1975 CIVIL R & D PROGRAM.
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